



**WALSH ANNOUNCES FIRST MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVE;
"CRIMES AGAINST REVENUE PROGRAM" WILL BECOME A
SPECIALIZED PROSECUTION UNIT
FOCUSED ON TAX, MEDICAID, AND WELFARE FRAUD**

NEW CITY, NY... Judge Tom Walsh announced his first major policy initiative of the campaign, "Crimes Against Revenue Program", which will focus on prosecuting tax, medicaid, and welfare fraud in Rockland County.

Under the proposal, Judge Walsh will form a new specialized prosecution unit that will focus on, develop and prosecute crimes that fall under New York State's Crimes Against Revenue Program otherwise known as C.A.R.P. The program, established in 2004, provides grants to District Attorney's offices across the state so they can investigate and prosecute these cases. C.A.R.P. is funded by the proceeds seized from investigations and in its first 5-1/2 years in existence the state received \$84.2 million dollars in revenue.

The program will have a multi-faceted approach that will fight all types of financial fraud within the county.

"We live in the second highest taxed county in America. It's unacceptable," said Judge Walsh. "Under my administration, we will have a zero-tolerance policy for the theft of any kind from the hardworking taxpayers of Rockland

County and actively pursue those who cheat the system."

The new specialized prosecution unit will investigate:

Tax Crimes

The Rockland County District Attorney's C.A.R.P. unit will focus on investigating individuals, corporations or industries that will include complex financial fraud and tax evasion schemes by major criminal enterprises. Many of these crimes involve the evasion or theft of taxes from New York State, including personal income tax evasion, sales tax avoidance and theft, cigarette/tobacco excise tax avoidance, evasion of taxes on gasoline and alcohol, and real property tax fraud.

Social Service/Welfare Fraud

Under C.A.R.P., the Rockland County District Attorney's office will actively pursue those who commit Medicaid and welfare fraud in Rockland County, vigorously go after those individuals who are taking advantage of the system by utilizing the numerous investigative tools at our disposal to ascertain hidden assets. This includes, but is not limited to the use of subpoenas, checking credit reports to reveal mortgage obligations, using the Rockland County Clerk's offices to establish real property ownership and working with local municipalities.

In addition, the District Attorney's office will also will go after the medical professionals who are involved in over-billing, kickbacks, providing substandard drugs and medical equipment. Some of those types of Medicaid abuses include, but are not limited to, false claim schemes, excessive or inappropriate testing, accepting payments from other insurers, personal injury mills, sharing Medicaid identification cards, Medicaid prescription fraud, reselling items provided by Medicaid recipient eligibility and cost based fraud.

Labor Law Fraud

This newly formed specialized prosecution unit will also investigate and prosecute crimes against the labor laws of the State of New York, including unemployment insurance fraud and related crimes. Unemployment insurance is a benefit meant to provide individuals with a safety net in the unfortunate event they lose their job. It is not a benefit meant to supplement untaxed income.

In addition, the District Attorney's office will form a strong alliance with the Department of Labor to combat these types of fraud that have negative implications not only on the taxpayers but also the business owners who have to pay higher insurance premiums due to these dishonest activities.

Workers' Compensation Fraud

The new unit will investigate and prosecute individuals and entities for crimes against the New York State workers' compensation laws and develop a strong working relationship with the New York State Insurance Fund and State Insurance Frauds Bureau in order to effectively investigate and develop these cases that fleece taxpayers of countless dollars on an annual basis.

Consumer Protection

Finally, the District Attorney's office will work tirelessly to educate the public on marketplace scams. Especially those who target our elderly here in Rockland County. Under the program, the new C.A.R.P. unit will investigate and prosecute all forms of consumer fraud including identity theft, fraudulent telemarketing calls, foreclosure prevention scams, debt collectors, credit reports and IRS phone scams. These forms of scams affect the least suspecting of victims and our office will hold these individuals accountable for their actions.

"The hard working taxpayers of Rockland deserve better than to have these criminals fleece their precious tax dollars," concluded Walsh. "All of the proceeds realized from these investigations, will result in tax revenues, fines and restitutions returned to the State."

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